

Isle of Man Stamps Depict Playing Cards

On August 8th Isle of Man Stamps and Coins issued a set of six stamps based upon the history of Manx themed playing cards.

The history of playing cards is one of mystery and intrigue. Believed to have originated from China as far back as 1294 they arrived in Southern Europe by the late 1300s, and spread quickly by trade and colonialism where they adapted to different cultures in which they found themselves. It is believed that the core elements of the decks and suits that we have today originated in the 15th Century from the red and black color scheme of France during that period.

By the late 19th century the Isle of Man had developed into a popular tourist destination, drawing visitors from across England. As the demand for the sale of novelty goods grew, Manx businessman Samuel Webb commissioned a set of playing cards featuring iconic Manx elements as a souvenir for tourists and authorized London based designers and printers Charles Goodall and Sons to produce the first set. Over the next 57 years they with other companies, produced approximately 30 different designs.



The six stamps incorporate select images from local expert Mike Goodall's exceptional collection. A descendant of Charles Goodall, Mike worked closely with Isle of Man Stamps and Coins to create a set of stamps that reflect the changing printing techniques of the era from engravings through to photography and ink. Each scene depicted, including Bradda Head and Peel Castle to the Laxey Wheel and the Groudle Wheel, is set against a background that corresponds to the rear of the original card.

Maxine Cannon, General Manager of Isle of Man Stamps & Coins said: "We would like to thank Mike Goodall for his expert assistance and generous access to

his exceptional collection which marks an important and unique addition to our collector's portfolio. This is a rare opportunity to own a collection which captures forgotten moments in Manx tourism history, from surviving architecture to lost landscapes."

For information on this and other Isle of Man new issues and a link to the Isle of Man postal administration website, please go to

<https://www.iompost.com/stamps-coins/>.